

THE USAU YOUTH



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2014 WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

An unparalleled opportunity to...

1. **Interact** with President Obama at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.;
2. **Participate** in a 6-week leadership and mentoring program at a U.S. institution;
3. **Meet** with U.S. government, civic, and business leaders;
4. **Access** exceptional internship and apprenticeship opportunities;
5. **Expand** your business or project through access to small grant funding; and
6. **Join** a continent-wide and global alumni network to help you seek innovative solutions to common challenges.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Citizens of and residents of sub-Saharan African countries. Persons holding U.S. citizenship or permanent residency are not eligible;
- Young leaders with spoken and written proficiency in English; and
- Youth between 25 and 35 years of age at the time of application submission, although exceptional leaders younger than 25 will be considered.

THE APPLICATION IS OPEN!!! Click [here](#)

“Africa's future belongs to its young people... We need young Africans who are standing up and making things happen not only in their own countries but around the world.”

President Barack Obama

EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the USAU Youth Newsletter for November and December, the last issue of the year! We strongly recommend that you apply for the President's **Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)**, which aims to bring about 500 young professionals to the United States for incredible opportunities. The application is open through January 27. In this edition, we'll also highlight International Volunteer Day (IVD), celebrated on December 5, to honor the services volunteers are providing around the world.

Want some ideas about "The Spirit of Volunteerism in United States" in order to improve your work in your field? Read our "USAU Youth Library" section on **page 2**. We'll share information on how volunteers in US are contributing to the economy and to social development in their homeland. In addition, on **pages 7 & 10**, we feature an article on what drives African youth to volunteer in their communities. On page 4, we have included an article by Octavio Diogo, the USAU Youth Intern, on "Volunteerism, an Opportunity to Realize the Africa 2063 Vision" in which he emphasizes how more youth volunteer work can help achieve the Africa 2063 vision. In the "Spotlight On" section on **page 8**, we'll introduce you to the South Africa-based Zayrah Development Agency, a youth-led not-for-profit that works on youth empowerment and socioeconomic development in fragile states in Africa. In the "Word to the Wise" section, we speak with Ambassador Reuben Brigety II, the new Ambassador to the African Union and Permanent Representative to UNECA. In his interview, he states his priorities and shares his vision for Africa in 2063. Find out more on **page 9**. As always, please share your thoughts with us on Twitter (@US_AU) and our USAU Youth Corner on Facebook!

Happy reading!

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Are you involved in this year International Volunteer Day (IVD) celebration? Share your story on the [Volunteer Action Counts](#) website.

Click on the pictured icons titled: "Be Counted. Be Specific. Be featured."

Click here [Here](#)



The USAU Youth Newsletter wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

USAU Youth Corner on Facebook

Get in touch with us! Your voice counts!
Engage with us on subjects or topics that matter to you!

Join together in addressing the continent's challenges!

Stay linked with us on the Facebook page:

"USAU Youth Corner"

LEADERSHIP CORNER:

"The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority."

— Kenneth Blanchard

USAU Youth Library



Article: The Spirit of Volunteerism

Author: eJournal USA, issued by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP)

Abstracts:

"In a typical year, about one-fifth of the American population, more than 62 million people, serve as volunteers, according to U.S. government statistics. They contribute more than 8 billion hours of services, valued conservatively at \$173 billion."

"Americans volunteer not because of coercion or profit, but because they recognize a need and are willing to take responsibility for meeting that need. But because they assume this responsibility in addition to their everyday jobs and duties, and because they do not seek monetary reward, volunteers themselves often underestimate the impact of their work"

"The role of volunteers in the United States has always been that of pioneer — to recognize significant issues and needs well before government or other institutions do and to provide services to address those needs."

"If businesses share their skills and knowledge with governments and people of the developing world, we'll all be better off."

Read the full article [here](#)

Octavio Diogo



The Africa Network Campaign on Education For All (ANCEFA) is looking for volunteers in:

- Education and Policy Advocacy (Education Policy Analysts, Education Advocates)
- Communication (website and newsletter)
- Fundraising
- Education Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

The Volunteers must be fluent in English and French or English and Portuguese.

Applicants should send a request to the ANCEFA Secretariat at: ancefa@orange.sn

Source the information [here](#), and learn more about ANCEFA [here](#)

Volunteer for the African Union (AU Youth Volunteer Corps –AUYVC)

AU-YVC is a continental development program that recruits and works with youth volunteers, to work in all 54 countries across the African Union. It was officially launched on the 3rd of December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, in the presence of H.E. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ministers of Youth from across the AU, high level AU representatives, Partners and other Volunteer Organizations and Africa's Youth at large. AU-YVC volunteers are deployed in non for profit settings where their impact and contributions can fill the gap for much needed skilled man power.

Discover more about how it works and apply [here](#) or [here](#)

The Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme, 2014

33Fifty is a leadership programme for young Commonwealth leaders aged between 18 and 25. It aims to develop young leaders to bring people together, reconcile differences, lead change and use the Commonwealth's networks effectively. 33Fifty will run immediately prior to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, as part of the official cultural programme. When and where: Glasgow July 17-18 and Edinburgh: July 19-20, 2014. **Accommodation, food and transport during the programme will be provided.**

The participants will explore Glasgow and Edinburgh, meeting local leaders from public, private and not-for-profit organizations as well as leaders from the wider Commonwealth gathered for Glasgow 2014.

Learn more and apply [here](#)

Esther Ottley Fellowship Program

All eligible applicants are invited to apply for Esther Ottley Fellowship Program offered to pursue PhD degree level studies at Howard University Graduate School.

Benefits- Full tuition (not including fees) and a stipend of \$20,000 for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Deadline- 14 March 2014

More info [here](#)

Article: Volunteerism, an opportunity to realize the Africa 2063 vision



*Octavio Hermeland Diogo has been a volunteer for the past 12 years. Although most of his volunteer work has been around Benin, he has also volunteered around the continent. His dedication to community-based work is evident in his commitment to Boy Scouts, his service in AIESEC, his service in the Rotary club, his commitment to his local church, and in his participation in the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU YVC). In 2009, he founded an NGO called VCI Benin through which he has consulted with several youth-led volunteer organizations and youth communities in local churches. He recently joined the South Africa-based **Zayrah Development Agency's** steering committee. He is also serving as the Youth Lead at the U.S. Mission to the African Union (USAU) on a voluntary basis. His work at USAU focuses on pan-African youth engagement and youth issues, such as employment and education. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the USAU Youth Newsletter.*

In May 2013, at the celebration of the Organization for African Unity's 50th Anniversary, African Union Heads of State and Heads of Government made a [solemn declaration](#) and pledged to ***advance the continental agenda for peace and socio-economic development***. Guided by their intention to promote gender equality and a people-centered approach in African countries, they committed to developing human capital, eradicating disease (especially HIV/AIDS and malaria), developing rural economies, supporting conflict prevention, and ***"act[ing] together with our people and the Diaspora to realize our vision..."*** In making this declaration, the Heads of State were aware that most of them will not be present in 2063 at the hundredth anniversary, and that today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders, promoting a common vision of a "prosperous and peaceful Africa at peace with itself and its partners" (African Union vision 2063).

In her [address to African Youth](#) on November 1, 2013, [African Youth Day], the African Union Commission Chairperson Dr Dlamini-Zuma stressed that young people must fulfill the 2063 African Agenda as a legacy to future generation.

In July 2006, the [African Youth Charter](#) was adopted as the most comprehensive political and legal framework for youth empowerment and youth contribution to continental development. One of the most important responsibilities is contained in article 26, point L: it promotes a culture of volunteerism among young people.

Though in others parts of the world, volunteer work is done by adult professionals (40-50), Africa has a comparative advantage in that 65% of its population is youth. And tapping that huge potential represents "walking the walk". More countries should raise awareness of youth volunteer opportunities and create quality volunteer programs to reap the demographic dividend.

Disambiguation: What volunteerism actually is

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) provided [a definition](#) according to which " **volunteerism is an activity undertaken of one's own free will, for the public good, and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor**" and the [ILO proposes](#) the following working definition of "volunteer work": ***Unpaid non-compulsory work; that is, time individuals give without pay to activities performed either through an organization or directly for others outside their own household.***

There are thus two principal forms of volunteerism – formal and informal. One of the main differences between the two is that formal volunteerism is carried out through a not-for-profit organization or project, while informal volunteerism is a more fluid activity that occurs without the protection the standards of organizational practice. Both forms are popular and valuable to our society. Volunteerism is unpaid work and it is done by choice. It cannot be undertaken to receive a pension or government/university allowances (as it is the case for some types of internships in some countries). It should be a legitimate way in which citizens can do something to benefit their community and should be performed via the not-for-profit sector to promote human

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rights and equality (always with regard to the rights, dignity and culture of others).

When we look more closely at these definitions of volunteerism, the idea of benefitting the community (and the volunteer) is straightforward: the community benefits when meals are delivered, trees planted, youth trained, and so forth. Volunteers also benefit in many ways, such as by making new friends, discovering hidden skills, learning new skills, and achieving personal rewards such as fulfilment, gaining expertise, and establish networks. Similarly, people intuitively understand that volunteers should not be paid. ***When volunteering, there should be a clear understanding that the work does not result in a wage.*** While there may be reimbursements made to volunteers for the costs they incur as a result of their volunteer activities, these payments are not a substitute for a wage.



Volunteerism to enhance lives in Africa

[The New Partnership for Africa's Development \(NEPAD\)](#) initiative – carried out by the African Union Commission – is intended to promote socio-economic development. By widening participation, volunteerism addresses social exclusion while building a sense of ownership and community. Youth should be at the forefront of this initiative, identifying problems and finding solutions, and bringing valuable insights that come from a youth perspective.

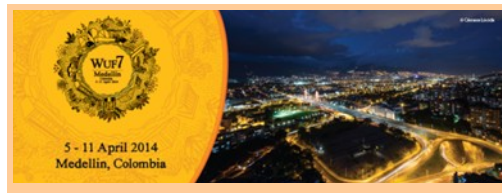
Data generated by Johns Hopkins reveals that, ***once converted into full-time equivalent workers, volunteers account on average for 45 per cent of the non-profit workforce in the 36 countries for which such data are available.*** In Sweden and Norway it is as high as 76 per cent and 63 per cent, respectively. In Canada, their contribution to the GDP is greater than that of both the agricultural and motor vehicle manufacturing industries (Statistics Canada, 2006). Additionally, ***“even conservatively estimated, the value of the contribution of time, i.e., volunteer work, is approximately double the value of the contribution of money”*** [Manual on the measurement of volunteer work / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2011](#)

If the majority of the 65% of the African youth population participates in volunteer work, the African community as a whole will benefit from their contribution. This will help Africa face today's challenges such as climate change, environmental issues, and socioeconomic challenges. African youth volunteerism can promote a more secure prosperous communities/countries. Thus, if more youth graduating in medicine are inspired to give their first post-diploma year to deliver free services in areas where the government doesn't successfully deliver, they can make a tremendous impact. Further, youth knowledgeable in ICT could dedicate some of their time to educating their peers living in rural areas, or skillful accounting students could reach out to illiterate entrepreneurs to deliver some training.

In Africa, I would like to highlight two good examples of volunteer programmes: The first is the ECOWAS Volunteers Programme (EVP), managed from the Burkina Faso-based ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre. The EVP was established to empower the youth to better contribute to promoting development, peace and integration, as well as to achieve the 2020 ECOWAS Vision. Volunteers are recruited through Ministries of Youth to help strengthen capacities of local organizations by assisting them in the development and implementation of projects and programmes, which seeks to support rehabilitation of crisis-affected communities. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are hosting the pilot programme, which was launched in Liberia in 2010. This is a platform to maximize expertise for development in the region. The second is [the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps \(AU-YVC\)](#). Through this organization, the help of a Nigerian volunteer was instrumental in raising the profile of the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), designed to reduce the rate of maternal mortality in Africa by improving the survival rate among women who give birth.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:



UN-Habitat World Urban Forum 7 at Medellin, Columbia: Applications Open!

Applications are now open for interested participants to attend the World Urban Forum 7 taking place at Medellin, Columbia from April 5 - 11, 2014. The World Urban Forum is an international conference organized by the UN-HABITAT to discuss issues related to sustainable urban development. The WUF7 theme is "Urban Equity in Development - Cities for Life."

Registration is free of charge. All WUF7 participants must be registered individually to get their accreditation and to have access to the WUF7 venue. Registration must be done in advance through the WUF7 website. Online registration **will close on 16 March 2014**.

Register [here](#) More info [here](#)

The Global Leaders Fellowship

*The Global Leaders Fellowship is for graduate students (master's and doctoral students) at the George Washington University who will return to their countries of origin to apply skills learned through their formal education at GW. The fellowship is intended for GW graduate students who will be future leaders in their fields in their home countries. **Preference will be given to students who have not previously studied or worked in the U.S. or other countries aside from their home country.***

The Global Leaders Fellowship application and supporting credentials must be received by the Office of Student Assistantships and Fellowships by 7 February 2014. Incoming students as well as current students will be considered for Fellowship awards, although preference will be given to incoming students.

Deadline: 7 February 2014

Article: [Volunteerism, an Opportunity to Realize the Africa 2063 Vision \(Continuation\)](#)

On the ground in the Central African Republic, a country rebuilding after longstanding internal conflict, two AU Youth Volunteers from Burkina Faso and Mali put their skills to use in the effort to increase access to youth-friendly services for adolescents. In Tanzania, two volunteers from Kenya and Nigeria have helped a young entrepreneur to set up her consultancy firm. Another young person from Nigeria, Lukman Jaji, launched the [African Youth Charter Mobile App](#) to spread the word about the unique and most comprehensive legal framework of African youth empowerment. He has done this because he believes that the more people are aware of their rights, the easier it will be to fight for them.

The idea of making Africa become the continent of our vision should lead every single youth, in his/her domain of expertise, to volunteer some of their time, in local disadvantaged sub-urban and rural areas. And as African youth, whether we were involved in the adoption of the Agenda 2063 or not, or not, are called to do our part. Volunteerism can make a meaningful and significant difference in the rise of our common and unique motherland.

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Article: Volunteerism, an opportunity to realize the Africa 2063 vision

Volunteerism to ensure the “Peaceful Africa”

One of the prime causes of conflict is cultural misunderstanding, including buying into stereotypes (when people have predefined ideas or assumptions about some common traits or characters of others communities or countries). This leads stereotype holders to behave in a certain manner towards other community members. Experience also suggests that the greater the integration between two countries, the fewer stereotypes prevail, and the less conflict arises. An Africa at peace with itself starts with peace building between individual countries, breaking down barriers, and eradicating erroneous perceptions. This is possible with a continuous, long-term and significant stream of intra-African (starting at the intra-country level) volunteerism, be it in social work, or be it in experience/knowledge sharing. This will undoubtedly lead to a “2063 generation” with a better understanding other cultures and peace promotion skills, which can strengthen the fragile peace in some places on the continent. The establishment of regional volunteer corps plus cooperation between those corps supports the vision of the African Union Volunteers Corps (AU YVC) and will rapidly contribute to the effectiveness of the “[African shared Values](#)” identified by the African Union Commission. This is one of the reason why [AIESEC](#) is championing in peace building, by enabling about 30,000 recent graduates to participate in international exchange programs, whether voluntary or professional, to ensure “peace and fulfillment of humankind’s potential” through cultural understanding and knowledge sharing.



In conclusion, *this year’s celebration theme: “Young. Global. Active.”* is an opportunity for youth-led organizations to recruit more members, wherever they are, and to involve them in community work. If most of African countries are yet to establish their own national volunteer corps/programs, it is most likely because they are not aware of the increase in productivity that volunteers bring. In some countries, the fact that non-for-profit institutions (NPIs) are discouraged is linked to high rates of unemployment – and that may get higher in the coming years! The better world we want can only become reality if we devote ourselves to “service above self”. ***Africa 2063 is not only a job for the African Union;*** rather we should claim ownership of the idea, do our part, and invite others to do theirs as well, so we can improve our lives and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Octavio H. DIOGO

Follow [@Octavio_DIOGO](#)

Blog: <http://www.octaviodiogo.wordpress.com/>

Why do young people volunteer in Africa?

Last December 5th was International Volunteer Day. In this issue, we feature volunteerism accounts and the perspectives of youth working on the ground in Africa. To answer the question, “Why do you volunteer?” here are answers from some of our African youth peers.

Adaeze, VSO, Nigeria (*“It’s an opportunity to make a difference.”*)

“I volunteer because it’s an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life. Knowing that someone’s life got better because of something I did is fulfilling for me.”

Michel Adopre, Mérite International de la Jeunesse – Togo (*“To be useful to other people.”*)

“I volunteer to share with people, to learn from them, to have new experiences, to be useful to other people, to feel pride in my contribution to the development of children, youth, and the general population.”

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SPOTLIGHT ON:



(Development Agency)

ZAYRAH is a youth-led development agency that focuses on peace building, socio-economic development in fragile states, and youth Empowerment. The organization searches for ways to alleviate poverty by tackling both changes in policy and the implementation of new policies. It strives to transform society through transforming the people and the surrounding communities. It recognizes young people as catalysts of change and mobilizes them to carry out the required change in their communities. On a policy level, Zayrah engages with policy-makers and brings a youth voice to policy discussion. For Zayrah, “*overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is a matter of justice. It is the protection of fundamental human rights – the right to dignity and a decent life.*” Zayrah exists simply because it sees a need to set people free from the injustices caused by poverty.

Target Group: Young People

Vision: Alleviate poverty in fragile states (post-conflict reconstruction)

Mission: Promote peace and socio-economic development in fragile states in Africa

Values: Zeal, Responsibility, Leadership and Harmony

Development Goals:

1. Human Security
2. Education
3. Social Cohesion
4. Entrepreneurship
5. Leadership

Zayrah's Strategy:

Zayrah Strategy includes the forthcoming “Zayrah Fund”: investing in ideas and projects that will lead to development in communities (**Empowerment**); training leaders and providing platforms for economic transformation to take place in communities (**Support**); advocating for peace and policies that are linked to development goals (**Advocacy**).

Zayrah is all about Passion.

It was founded two years ago (September 2011) with passion and hopes of addressing the challenges of privation, as well as a vision for uniting societies. The organization's goals are fuelled by a desire to help young people enact change and make life better for the next generation. Hence, Zayrah supports and empowers people with ideas for the greater benefit of the community. One of its focus areas is nurturing a new generation of leaders, who will provide solutions to their own challenges. The profound aspiration of Zayrah, as a youth-led organization, is to see young people taking ownership of the most urgent issues facing their countries and the world, and to see these people fully supported by their governments, their communities, and business and civil society institutions.

Zayrah was the initiator and organizer of the African Youth Charter Summit (AYCS 2013) in Tanzania, and *will host the July 2014 edition in South Africa*. Zayrah is registered with the UN (ECOSOC). Zayrah is based in Johannesburg, South Africa, and manages a Francophone Support Office in the Republic of Benin.

For further information, check out the Zayrah website <http://zayrah.org> or write to zayrahafrica@gmail.com.

A WORD TO THE WISE :

Dr. Reuben Brigety II,
US Ambassador to the African Union and U.S. Permanent Representative to UNECA



Ambassador Brigety was appointed Ambassador to the African Union on September 3, 2013. He served previously as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of African Affairs (2011-2013) and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (2009-2011). Prior to his work in government, he was an Assistant Professor of government and politics at George Mason University and at the School of International Service at American University (2003-2008). He also worked in non-profit organizations as a researcher with Human Rights Watch (2001-2003) and as Program Director with the Center for American Progress (2007-2009). He served in the U.S. military as an active duty U.S. naval officer (1995-2000).

USAU Youth: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Ambassador Reuben Brigety II: My pleasure and thank you also for the good work so far.

Ambassador Brigety, the Youth Newsletter Team welcomes you as the new U.S. Ambassador to the African Union and the Permanent Representative to UNECA. Could you tell us about your personal and professional background, and your involvement with youth-led initiatives on the continent?

I am still a youth by African standards; I just turned 40. But my links to Africa go back decades, if not centuries. My father was one of the first Crossroads Africa volunteers in Northern Rhodesia. I have traveled extensively on the continent, as part of my work and for personal travel. I have always sought opportunities to engage African youth. In February 2011 I visited a refugee camp on the Ethiopian-Somali border and was the guest speaker at an elementary school graduation. In my speech I mentioned that my wife is an African refugee who fled violence at age four. Today she is a qualified physician. I told the children that it doesn't matter where you start, you can make your life into anything you want.

In my work I have engaged with Ambassador's Youth Councils across southern Africa. I addressed the African Diaspora in the U.S., speaking at Johns Hopkins University's "Africa Day". Since arriving in Addis I have also worked with youth: I addressed a group of Tutu Fellows on November 8. Engaging with youth is a delightful part of my professional life.

Can you highlight some of your key priorities for the U.S. Mission to the African Union?

We will continue our cooperation on peace and security, but I want to stress that the next chapter of African history will focus on private sector-led economic growth. Africa has already dealt with the challenges of colonialism, apartheid and the early years of self-rule. USAU will dramatically increase our cooperation on Africa's economic plans for itself. Economic development is key for youth, and youth are drivers of economic development: they are part of the workforce, and their creativity and entrepreneurship are very important. African youth need good jobs so they can shape their own futures, and we hope they will make the U.S. a key partner.

What are your expectations for your tenure at USAU, specifically as it pertains to deepening the U.S. – A.U. relationship and furthering the continental youth agenda?

We will continue to play a strong role in the Young African Leaders Initiative, and will identify opportunities for young Africans to participate in YALI. We will develop a strong cultural program which highlights historic and modern links between the U.S. and Africa. We will also strive to build exchanges ...

Continued on Page 10

A WORD TO THE WISE

between young Africans and young Americans. We will continue our partnership with the African Union to bring peace and support our common vision of a peaceful, proud, and prosperous Africa.

This year we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the OAU, the African Union's predecessor organization. What kind of Africa would you like to see in 2063, 50 years from now?

I would like to see Africa take its rightful place in the world. I would like to see an Africa at peace with itself, an Africa that contributes to the world economy, and an Africa that is generating knowledge and ideas for itself and the world. This is entirely possible. Fifty years ago, parts of Africa were still colonial states. Fifty years later, Africa is free – free to chart its own political and economic destiny. The United States intends to remain a strong partner for Africa.

Do you have a 'word to the wise' to offer to our readers?

Africa's forefathers – the previous generation – freed Africa. It will be this generation's job to build it. Young Africans need to invest in themselves, in businesses, in their communities. The United States is here to help. The task is theirs, but we look forward to working with them.

Interviewed by Octavio Diogo

Why do young people volunteer in Africa? (continuation)

Onward Chironda, BHASO (Batanai HIV and AIDS Service Organization), Zimbabwe
("I may be instrumental in building the confidence of my fellow young people.")

"Zimbabwe is a poverty-stricken country in Africa, which has seen high rates of unemployment. [In some instances] young people engage in transactional sex in search of financial security, resulting in unwanted pregnancies, and a high prevalence of STI's and HIV among young people. Zimbabwe has also suffered from political violence during election seasons, and young people have been induced to perpetrate political violence. Hence, youth do not always participate positively in electoral and developmental processes. In light of the above, young people need information on issues that concern them. The reason why I volunteer is that I may be instrumental in building confidence among my fellow young people, and my example may lead them to participate in developmental processes in my country. Youth need a voice, and as a youth advocate, I am also the voice for the voiceless. I advocate for youth-friendly space in developmental structures and services. I also support including youth as part of developmental structures, and encouraging youth to pursue healthy choices, for the future is theirs."

Desire Habonimana, YOWLI (Young Women's Knowledge and Leadership Institute), Burundi (*"I decided to offer my own energy in the service of the young generation."*)

"I am convinced that youth are proactive and equal partners in achieving sustainable development. I believe that young people have a right to benefit from actions aimed at improving their health, rights, environment, etc. I, as a young founder, and present Legal Representative, of YOWLI BURUNDI, as an activist and as a change agent, decided to volunteer because I am conscious that we must reach those young generations with information, education and communication FOR FREE. We do not need salaries to achieve this goal, especially because our countries are not well off... I decided to offer my own energy in the service of the young generation."

Lilys Njeru, Change Mind, Change Future, KENYA (*"Each time I volunteer, I feel happier."*)

"Volunteering is something I love doing because I believe in illuminating other peoples' lives. Sometimes, there is a lot to be done – be it in blood donation centers, children's homes, or hospitals – but often there are few staff in these places. Each time I volunteer, I feel happier because it so amazing when you do something from your heart, willingly, and not expecting anything in return."

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OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Cote d'Ivoire's Toure Blamassi, is the Chairman of the Federation of Sub-Saharan Students and Interns in Tunisia (in French FTDES). Although Toure is a youth with visual impairment, he has been re-elected to chair the youth-led organization (including its 8000 members from 25 different countries). During the last Youth Consultation on the Africa 2063 vision organized by the African Union Commission, he chaired the Committee on African Integration, Pan-Africanism and Free Movement.

It is important to note that Toure is a Master's of Science in Human Resources after having obtained a diploma in body-therapy.

The USAU Youth is always interested to hear from you!

Please send your articles, announcements, and/or information on any subject matter you would like to see in subsequent editions of the newsletter to USAUyouth@state.gov, and please don't miss out on our monthly discussions on Facebook.



Thank you.

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